

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 02723 100148Z
ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 /016 W
-----100818Z 095642 /21

R 091520Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9783

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 2723

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, PINR, NI
SUBJECT: HEALTH COMMISSIONER'S RETURN TO POLICE DUTY

1. IN BRIEF ANNOUNCEMENT MARCH 3, FMG SAID THAT ALHAJI KAFARU TINUBU (1975 LAGOS PLBRL), SENIOR POLICE OFFICER SERVING AS COMMISSIONER FOR HEALTH SINCE MARCH 1&76, HAS BEEN RECALLED TO POLICE DUTY AT REQUEST OF I.G. OF POLICE. HEAD OF STATE OBASANJO EXPRESSED "SINCERE APPRECIATION" FOR TINUBU'S SERVICES AS COMMISSIONER. NEW COMMISSIONER FOR HEALTH HAS NOT YET BEEN NAMED.

2. EMBASSY HAS HEARD TWO EXPLANATIONS OF WHY TINUBU WAS RECALLED:
A. HE WAS INEPT ADMINISTRATOR OUT OF HIS ELEMENT AND UNABLE TO RESOLVE SUBORDINATES' PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL CONFLICTS THAT HAVE KEPT HEALTH MINISTRY IN TURMOIL.
B. HE WAS IMPLICATED IN SHADY DEALINGS (LIKELY INVOLVING PHARMACEUTICALS) AND WAS LUCKY TO GET OFF WITH RECALL RATHER THAN SACKING.
SINCE STORIES ARE NOT NECESSARILY CONTRADICTORY, EMBASSY IS INCLINED TO GIVE CREDENCE TO BOTH.

3. TINUBU'S POSITION MAY ALSO HAVE BEEN ERODED BY CONTINUING REVELATIONS OF MALFEASANCE AND MALPRACTICE AT IGOBOBI ORTHOPEDIC HOSPITAL, ONCE A SHOWPIECE OF NIGERIAN MEDICINE. LAST NOVEMBER

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HEAD OF STATE PAID SURPRISE VISIT TO HOSPITAL, WAS SHOCKED BY CONDITIONS: ORDERED INVESTIGATION (WPICH REVEALED PAYMENTS EXTORTED FOR SUPPOSEDLY FREE SERVICES, BOOKKEEPING CHAOS AND UNNECESSARY AMPUTATIONS), ANDGAVE TINUBU ONE WEEK IN WPICH TO DRAW UP PLAN FOR IMMEDIATE IMPROVEMENTS.

4. WHILE MANY OF HIS POLICE CONTEMPORARIES WERE BEING SENT INTO

RETIREMENT, TINUBU MADE SMOOTH TRANSITION FROM GOWON TO MUHAMMED
REGIME. HE CONTINUED FOR A TIME IN IMPORTANT POST OF WESTERN
STATE POLICE COMMISSIONER, THEN WAS TRANSFERRED TO EQUALLY
RESPONSIBLE EAST CENTRAL STATE POLICE COMMISSIONERSHIP.
WITH HEALTH COMMISSIONERSHIP CAME MEMBERSHIP ON FEC. IT APPEARS
NOW, HOWEVER, THAT TINUBU IS BEING PUT OUT TO PASTURE IN WAY LEAST
LIKELY TO CAUSE EMBARRASSMENT TO FMG.
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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 09-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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